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**(54) Improvements in and Relating  
to Board Products and Mouldings**

(57) A composition for the  
manufacture of building boards and  
mouldings, especially boards and  
mouldings for fire protection,  
comprising potassium silicate and/or  
sodium silicate, light weight

aggregate and cellulosic fibres.  
Preferred light weight aggregates are  
vermiculite and/or pulverised fuel ash  
cenospheres. The cellulosic fibres may  
be first dispersed in a solution of  
potassium silicate and/or sodium  
silicate before adding the resultant  
liquid dispersion to the dry  
ingredients.

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**SPECIFICATION**  
**Improvements in and Relating to Board**  
**Products and Mouldings**

This invention relates to a novel composition  
 5 for boards and mouldings of the type which in the  
 past have comprised light weight aggregate and  
 potassium silicate or sodium silicate binder.

Typical light weight aggregates include  
 vermiculite, perlite, and pulverised fuel ash  
 10 cenospheres and are usually inorganic.

The usual process for manufacturing this type  
 of board or moulding normally involves the use of  
 potassium or sodium silicate in solution with  
 water, and usually includes the steps of mixing,  
 15 pressing and stoving.

This type of board or moulding is used for a  
 variety of applications but is especially suitable for  
 fire resistant and high temperature insulation  
 applications. This type of board or moulding does  
 20 however have the disadvantage of being friable,  
 which results in excessive breakages in handling,  
 transportation and application, and also in the  
 product not being suitable for application  
 methods which involve mechanical means such  
 25 as drilling, screwing, the use of clips and brackets  
 and so on.

The usual methods of application for these  
 materials have in the past included the use of wet  
 cements or adhesives, and have become much  
 30 less attractive because of the messy nature of the  
 process, and many skilled applicators of these  
 materials now prefer to avoid the use of wet  
 cements or adhesives and to use instead  
 materials which can be fixed by mechanical  
 35 means.

According to the present invention a  
 composition is provided for the manufacture of  
 boards and mouldings, comprising potassium  
 silicate and/or sodium silicate, light weight  
 40 aggregate and cellulosic fibres, which will be  
 more suitable for application by mechanical  
 means. The ingredients are preferably present in  
 the following proportions by dry weight:

	%
45 Potassium silicate and/or sodium silicate	3—25
Light weight aggregate	55—95
Cellulosic fibres	$\frac{1}{2}$ —20

The particularly preferred proportions are in the  
 50 ranges 7—20%, 80—90%, and 2—8% by weight  
 respectively.

The preferred maximum amount of cellulosic  
 fibre when the application is to be a fire resistant  
 one is 5%.

55 The density of the resultant product made from  
 this composition will ordinarily have a density in  
 the range 300—800 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

It is preferable in the mixing operation to first  
 disperse the cellulosic fibres in the potassium  
 60 and/or sodium silicate solution and then to add  
 this liquid dispersion to the dry ingredients in the  
 mixer.

An example of a preferred composition  
 according to this invention is as follows by dry  
 65 weight:

	%
Potassium silicate and/or sodium silicate	15
Vermiculite and/or pulverised 70 fuel ash cenospheres	81
Cellulosic fibres	4

The advantage of boards and mouldings made  
 in accordance with this invention lies in their  
 increased toughness and better suitability for  
 75 application or installation using mechanical  
 methods, such as drilling, screwing, use of clips,  
 brackets and so on, and also in much reduced  
 breakages in handling, transportation and  
 application.

**80 Claims**

1. A composition suitable for the manufacture  
 of building boards and mouldings comprising  
 potassium silicate and/or sodium silicate, light  
 weight aggregate and cellulosic fibres.

85 2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 in  
 which the light weight aggregate is vermiculite  
 and/or pulverised fuel ash cenospheres.

3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 in  
 which the ingredients are present in the following  
 90 percentages by dry weight:—

	%
Potassium silicate and/or sodium silicate	3 to 25
Light weight aggregate	55 to 95
95 Cellulosic fibres	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 20

4. A method of making building boards or  
 moulding from compositions as claimed in any  
 preceding claim, which includes the steps of  
 mixing the ingredients, pressing and stoving or air  
 100 drying.

5. A method of mixing the moulding  
 compositions as claimed in Claims 1 to 3 which  
 includes the step of first dispersing the cellulosic  
 fibres in a solution of potassium silicate and/or  
 105 sodium silicate and then adding this liquid  
 dispersion to the dry ingredients.

6. Building boards or mouldings made from  
 compositions as claimed in Claims 1 to 3.